

File No. 25/14/Nho-52

Original File
परम गोपनीय

TOP SECRET

विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(एन० जी० ओ० अनुभाग)
(N. G. O. SECTION)

फाइल नं०
File No. 25/14/Nho-52

विषय : कृपया इस आवरण को उलटें
(Subject : [Please Turn Over])

कहाँ भेजा Sen to	कब भेजा On	कहाँ भेजा Sent to	कब भेजा On	कहाँ भेजा Sent to	कब भेजा On
<p><i>Declassified</i></p> <p><i>Chatterjee 4/1/16.</i></p> <p>(सुरज कुमार चटर्जी) (SURJAN KUMAR CHATTERJEE) संयुक्त सचिव (सी.जी.ओ.) Joint Secretary (N.G.O.) विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi</p> <p><i>Keep</i></p> <p><i>Sahy</i> 12/01/16</p> <p>राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार रखें APPRaised KEEP NATIONAL ARCHIVES</p>					

Pages
Note — 1-5
CORR — 1-20
Total — 25

Subhas Chander Bose

विषय :
SUBJECT : Misc. correspondence purporting to
throw lights on the whereabouts of
Shri Subhas Chander Bose.

संबंध फाइलें :
Connected Files :

नं०
No.

विषय :
Subject :

किस तारीख को निकाली गई B/F Date	किस क्रम संख्या के लिए निकाली गई For Serial No.	किस क्रम संख्या का निपटान हुआ Disposal Serial No.	टिप्पणी Remarks

(2)

the Government of India have definitely accepted Mr.S.A.Aiyer's report on these matters and the Prime Minister has informed Parliament and the country to this effect, I do not see of what value the attached letter is to us at this stage. No action is called for on our part.

JS may see.

~~Hi~~

25-10-52

JS

N.G.O.

I agree. But the letter
will be acknowledged

Arach
27/10/52

X-P Division have already
asked Communications Ministry
to acknowledge the letter.

~~Hi~~

27.x.

JS (S)

~~Mr. G~~

27.10.52

N.G.O.

(3)

Ministry of External Affairs
NGO Br.

D.No. 826-NGO/53.

1. This should be formally acknowledged by Section Officer, N.G.O.
2. Add to file with other correspondence of this nature and refer to Home Ministry.

Sd. Leilamani Naidu.
17. 3. 53.

Draft acknowledgement put up.
After some, Ministry of Home
Affairs may see as desired by D.S. (FEA)
Sd
12.3.53

Issue.
S. D. Chatterjee
13.3.53

(4) - Issue

(H. H. Ghoshal)

Ministry of External Affairs. No. Ho. 2826-NGO/53
Df 17.3.53

See; thanks.

Min. of E.A.

Ths' 82B

MHA up No. 3163/53-Poll 9-18-3-53
Intelligence Bureau (MHA.)

Seen; thanks.

Laubh
(M. L. Hoof)
Deputy Director

M.E.A. (M.S.D. Chatterjee)

D.B. up no. 3A/955, dated 20 MAR 1953

D No 100 - NGO/50



1952.

Ministry of External Affairs.NGO BRANCH

Pros. Serial	Nos.
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Subject.

Sri Subhas Chandra Bose - Miscellaneous correspondence
purporting to throw light on the whereabouts of
Sri Subhas Chandra Bose.

Previous References.	Later References.
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Ministry of External Affairs
X. P. Division

No. D. 10020/52-XS.

I should have liked to acknowledge this letter, but Mr. Iyer should not have sent it to us except through official channel. However, we can send a letter to the Communications Ministry with the request that Mr. Iyer be informed that his letter has been received. The original letter of Mr. Iyer should be sent to the Territorial Branch.

S. Sen
(S. Sen)
13.10.52
74

U.S. (XP)

I have sent a note separately to the Ministry of Communication as directed by DS. The Territorial Branch may kindly see the letter (in original)

[Signature]
15/10/52

in (XP)

pe.
16/10/52
w/x

This is for N.G.O. Br.
22/10/52
N.G.O. Br.

N.G.O. Br.

D.S. (FEA) may be interested to see this.

See
23.10.52
23.10.52

DS (FEA)

There is a large number of contradictory statements claiming to throw authentic light on (a) the reported death of Shri. Subhas Chandra Bose; and
(b) the quantity and fate of the I.N.A. treasure.

SECRET

Ministry of External Affairs
Asia Pacific Division

.....

All files relating to Netaji Subhash Chander Bose may be sent to Shri Y. Varma, Director(AP) as required by him.

[Signature]

(R.S. Kalha)
Joint Secretary(AP)

September 20, 1994

AO(NGO)

Dir (AP)

Could the files pl. be sent to me now?

[Signature]
Varma

20-9-94

1225 PM

AO(NGO)

[Signature]
HKB
20/9

As decided the following files are submitted for kind perusal pl.

1. 25/13/NGO-52 with (KW)
2. 25/14/NGO-52.

AO(NGO)

Dir (AP)

[Signature]
VW
20/9/94

[Signature]
Varma
3.10.94 Dir (AP)

AO(NGO)

J.M
Sh. *[Signature]*
3.10.94

① D7164-XA/52
4/10

K. R. Jyer, Chief, Telegraph Section
CTS Office, Central Ry. Bombay
25-9-52

To: The Secretary, Foreign Relations Dept. Delhi.

Sir,

Re: News item in page 3 of National Standard
Bombay, headed "Netaji likely to turn
up in Nepal, says friend." dated
Karachi, Sept. 24E.

318//
3/11

This appears to have been written with mischievous
intent. Since I don't feel competent to write to the paper,
I submit the following to you for what it is worth.

"I was a Sergeant in R.I.A.F (Ind/13250) and was in charge
of a section of the field interception sub-room in Rangoon
attached to HQ. unit, 164 (Signals) Wing of the RAF, at the
time the gap. Southern Army surrendered. One evening one
of my operators intercepted a gap message from Taiwan
with Netaji Subhas Bose's name in it. I took it in to
my officer S/Ldc. H.P. Pott for decoding. I was not taken
into confidence unusually, but as I found the men (BORs)
of the int. section excessively jubilant I approached Mr.
Pott and learnt that "the plane with the Bose crashed
while taking off from Taiwan and Netaji was carried to
the Hospital in serious and unconscious condition."
About 15 days later I myself intercepted a message from a
gap station to Moscow with "Subas Bose's" name on it
with two English words "arrival plane" in the body. This
also, I was not allowed to see after decoding. I hope
am not making confusion worse confounded.

2. Reg. Mr. Mohan Karim Ghani, who has made the
above announcement in this paper, claiming to be a friend
of Netaji:- While in Rangoon I made it a point of
contacting as many people as possible who had had
anything to do with Netaji and my information was
"Karim Ghani was Defence Minister in Netaji's
Cabinet and he was responsible for a large scale
diversion of all kinds of supplies intended for the
I.N.A. front, to his friends along with whom he surrendered
to the British in the Arakan later. He was purely responsible
for INA's failure in the Manipur/Kohima front."

3. Reg. the 8 cases of gold mentioned in the statement:-
My information is that the cases did not accompany Netaji
but preceded him in a separate plane to Bangkok.
Only the number 8 appears exaggerated. I could not
doubt this information as it was corroborated by
who claimed to have been in Netaji's shadow cast.
I have forgotten most names, but one of them Mr.
S.S. Rajan, I understand, is now writing a family
"Tara Berikai" in Rangoon. There

D15820/52
7/10

DS(XP)
D.1.15

45/10
XP

3/10

(2)

one Mr. Thyagarajan a secretary in Metaji's office
deptt. A.K. Krishnaswamy (formerly D.S. of I.C. Police Office
Rangoon) Secretary, Indian Independence League, and
one Mr. Balan. All these I met in Kamayut near Rangoon.
I also learnt from them that a sum of Rs 5 Lacs was
entrusted to the shadow cabinet by Metaji for the benefit
of the 6000 IRA men surrendering to the British at Rangoon
in currency. From the way they expressed themselves
appears to me as though I had surprised the news
out of them and they begged me not to mention it.
Dr. Laxmi (S/c of Rani of Jhansi High) who was then
practising in Moghul Street was mentioned often by
them, but I could not meet her though I tried
several times.

4 I was not interested in disclosing these during
the Britishers time, and later when the Prime Minister
also had given his opinion in the matter I decided
to shut up. Now that Karim Ghani has given the
enclosed statement I thought I would report what
I knew for what it is worth.

5 Incidentally I may be permitted to mention
that it was I who collected the material about
the IRA, IDL, and other subjects in Rangoon
and smuggled it into Calcutta where it was
all published in, I think, about Dec/45/Jan 46
for the first time. I also carried some
papers and handed over to the editor of a
Kannarese paper at Bangalore (Praja mathe
or Prajamitra) in Feby. 46.

yours faithfully,
K Ranganathiah.

⑧ This gentleman was reported to have made quite a few
lacks of rupees. He has his own house in Kamayut. He
is now in India settles somewhere in or near Trichy.
One of his sons is employed now in this Ry.

Sehjee
25/7.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PRESS NOTE

IMPORT POLICY FOR JULY-DECEMBER 1952

POLICY FOR "RESERVED" ITEMS ANNOUNCED

When the import policy for the period July-December 1952 was announced in June last, it was stated that the policy for a number of items was reserved for a later announcement. The Government of India have decided the policy for certain of these articles and these decisions have been published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated October 15, 1952.

The policy has been announced for as many as 61 items including iron and steel bolts, nuts, nails and screws, wooden separators, copper wire, precision and measuring tools, grinding wheels, motors and generators, electric insulations, table fans, sago flour, vegetable products, somolina and self raising flour, paper, cotton twist and yarn, fents and certain other cotton fabrics, crockery, razor blades, radios, cycle and cycle parts, photographic goods, starch, aluminium powder and paste, fertilizers, cigarette paper, hinges, sugar juice boiling pans, fibre tops and staple fibre.

The policy for the rest of the items, the most important of which are belting, diesel engines, power driven pumps, coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals, sheet and plate glass, raw silk, typewriters, motor cycles, musical instruments, chemicals and instruments is also under the active consideration of Government and will be announced as soon as possible.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry
New Delhi, October 15, 1952.

CLB/RRA.
400/15.10.52.

18.
50,000-7-10-52 PP

4
Nat. Serv. Bombay.

Netaji Likely

To Turn Up In Nepal, Says Friend

KARACHI, Sept. 24.

A FORMER Minister in the wartime "Azad Hind Government" has reported his belief that its leader, Subhas Chandra Bose, is still alive and has predicted he will soon make an appearance.

This is the belief and contention of Mr. Mohammad Karimghani, a former close associate and minister in Subhas Chandra Bose's Cabinet, which is contained in his forthcoming book, "Escape of Subhas Bose: Why Is He Hiding."

He contends, that on the basis of personal information and his knowledge of Bose's horoscope, "Mr. Bose's reappearance is very near." He predicts that Bose "might show up in Nepal in the company of Dr. K. I. Singh," a Nepalese rebel who is now reported to be collaborating with the Chinese Communists in Tibet.

Mr. Karimghani claims that the controversy over whether Subhas Chandra Bose was killed in an airplane accident had its beginnings in his statement on release from custody in 1946 when he contended that Bose was not killed in this crash as it was officially claimed.

He questioned this disappearance of Bose on the grounds that eight boxes of gold that were said to have been aboard the aircraft could not be traced. He claims that continued failure to trace this gold shipment substantiates his theory.

⑤
Ministry of External Affairs
(X.P. Divn.)

81-24-~

A letter dated 25.9.'52 has been received from the person mentioned below relating to the controversy regarding the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:

K. R. Iyer,
Clark,
Telegraph Section ,
C.T.S. Office, Central Railway
Bombay.

We are not acknowledging the letter since Mr. Iyer should not have sent it to us except through official channels. However, we should be grateful if you could kindly inform Mr. Iyer that his letter has been received by us.

Sd/-(M.A.Vellodi)
15.20.52.

10

Ministry of Communications.

M/External Affairs u.o.No.D-15020/52-XS dt.26.10.52.

16

⑥ D. No. 826-H 49/53

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI.

9786

19/3

Forwarded to....the Ministry of.....
External Affairs, New Delhi,.....
for disposal.

The communication has ^{been} ~~not been~~ acknowledged.

US (PFA) / 10/3
NGO

Do Chopra
Officer on Special Duty.
~~Executive Secretary.~~

Prime Minister's Sectt. U.O. No. 1972 P.M.
dated..... 5.3.53..... 13

This should be formally
acknowledged by Section Officer,

P. M. S. 3. 190.

68PM-60,000-13-2-53-PP. Add to file with other
correspondence of this
nature & refer to
Home Ministry.

160

10/3

H. 2
11.3.53

(7)

E A

1972 Pith/S3

Abhaya Prasad

Abhaya Prasad 2 3/53

Shree Gaurabhi Nehru
may it please your honour

I have sent letter to you and
Copy of letter of Subaschandra
Bose. Secretary of Japan Brotherhood
Society V. B. Sheth published in
Samaksh chandrad Japan Govt
enemy of Bose and Subaschandra
Bose living Japan elsewhere
Dafe. Ran away from Japan
and living with Mountain Gang.
S. A. Dyer Secretary of Azad fund
who is in New Delhi has 80
lacs Rs and amount Swallow
Calcutta Corporation and Calcutta
Parliament passed resolution
why Delhi Govt not publish
Subaschandra Bose who is in
China stay in motherland.
Published in Samaksh Subaschandra
Bose ran away Tokyo other name
in Nazi Sakumarine and saved
life. Subaschandra Bose prisoner
of Hitler and fell victim of
Sakumarine. Compulsory military
in Rangoon and Sakumarine
in Rura Kanti agency military

V. B. Sheth published aeroplane accident
is propaganda and shot by Meethar
when Japan take charge announce
by Japan House but Indians in
Japan believe Subas Chandra
Bose ran away from Japan and
Doge elsewhere.

Deputy High Com with Subas Chandra
Bose in Bombay and just
Nehru freedom by Deputy High Com.

officers sent by Togo as found
 in India. Copy came to Resident
 Hurcock and Hurcock's house.
 I am only man to trace Subaschandra
 Bose and at present in Tajmahal
 Hotel, Bombay. I request Prime
 minister to send Rs 5000
 that I comfort life. Ashim also
 agree Service Subaschandra
 Bose entrust Calcutta Nation
 and was against Togo Gandhi
 Nehru put in Ashim and Ash
 hold. Subaschandra Bose has
 Ashim's future of war. I succeed
 to trace Subaschandra Bose
 I have sent letter to Subaschandra
 Bose through Deputy High
 Commissioner for United Kingdom
 Bombay through Mountsang
 Chin. Copy of letter of Subaschandra
 Bose with Deputy High Comm.
 I request Prime Minister of India
 to open Subaschandra Bose
 and Subaschandra Bose
 will join Nehru Govt.

Honourable Sir
 your most obliged
 and most obedient
 Servant
 Dauliba N. Choksi

Letter of Subaschandra Bose
 it was in letter of Nehru I came
 & show...

(10)

No.D.826-NGO/53
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of External Affairs

....

New Delhi, the 16th March, 1953.


To

Shri Dadiba N. Choksi,
Vaso Mill,
Dhugneswar Road,
Ahmedabad.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 2nd March 1953 addressed to the Prime Minister of India, regarding Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

Yours faithfully,


(S.D. Chatterjee)
Section Officer.

7c

Handwritten:
16/3

(11)

2860/JSCAP/94

13807/AS/94

16.8

14/8/94

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(5)

नई दिल्ली - 110011

NEW DELHI-110011

A copy of a letter from Principal Secretary to PM to Shri Ashis C. Ray in reply to Shri Ray's letter about Netaji (copy also attached) may kindly be seen for action as appropriate.

Sujata Mehta
(Sujata Mehta)
Director

Home Secretary

✓ Foreign Secretary

✓ PMO u.o.No. 870/11/P/10/93-POL dated 09-08-94

Con. Group & Committee decided that the
asker should remain in College & we should
continue paying the priests at the Kankaji
College even at higher rates if necessary.
Are the minutes with us yet? If not pl
send me back with this plain
12/8/94

AS

Minutes are still not with us. We
will remind C.A. Sect.

FS

16/8

12

August 8, 1994

870/11/P/10/93-A1

Thank you for your letter of August 1, 1994 about your recent studies pertaining to Netaji.

2. I appreciate the detailed note on the subject of Netaji's ashes you have enclosed with your letter, and the particular facts you have highlighted shall be examined. In the meanwhile, I appreciate the constructive approach to the subject you have outlined, and this shall certainly receive full consideration. We shall pursue the matter and will be in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Av

(A.N. Varma)

Shri Ashis C. Ray,
F-162, Malcha Marg,
Chanakyapuri,
NEW DELHI-110021

Minutes read today
after reminding.

Para 3 (ii) refers pls

~~FS~~ pl give
copy to Hrm 11/8/8
7 days & send copy to
Di (SM) PMA - copy to ✓
per u.o. 11/8/8 J/AP

ASHIS C. RAY

1 August, 1994.

Dear Mr Varma,

Enclosed herewith is a MEMO on the subject of "ASHES" said to be the mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

I am interested in this matter because Netaji was my great uncle, my grand-father, Sarat Chandra Bose's younger brother.

Sadly, for 49 years, neither the family nor the people or government of India has managed to indisputably establish what happened to him. Netaji's wife, Emilie Schenkl and only child, Anita Pfaff live in Germany, and while not unconcerned, are hesitant to do anything one way or other, lest it hurts Indian sentiments. My uncles and aunts, not to mention my mother, have either grown weary in their attempt to do something or as in the case of a few, have chosen to have a closed mind on the issue. In these circumstances, I may be among very few relatives of Netaji still left with the energy and inclination to pursue the subject.

For several years, now, I have tried to carefully study the concerned subject. If I had been able to devote my entire time to it, I would, probably, have found a solution. But my labours may have, at least, given me an insight into what needs to be done to produce a framework acceptable to all concerned. It is not an impossible task; and given the present Indian leadership, can be accomplished without too much difficulty.

As part of my private effort to get to the bottom of the affair and at the same time pave the way for the return of the "ashes" to India, if they are indeed Netaji's, I recently visited Tokyo. There, I met senior officials of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, academics involved in the study of Netaji and his activities and his former associates. Based on these and my discussions with the Indian Ambassador in Japan, Prakash Shah, I have prepared the mentioned memo.

I should, in fact, like to particularly thank Mr Shah for the co-operation and good advice extended by him.

Senior cabinet ministers have suggested that I should seek an appointment with the Prime Minister on the matter. I felt I should apprise you of it before doing so; and in any case, would be pleased if you were present at such a meeting, if this is alright with you.

The court case, cited in the memo, is already underway. Therefore, there may be a slight urgency in dealing with it. Please let me have your reaction.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Ami D

Mr A. N. Varma
Principal Secretary to
the Prime Minister
Lodi Estate
New Delhi.

SLUG	WRITER	DAY/DATE/TIME	REV. BY	ON	STATUS	TIME
NETAJI'S "ASHES"	Delhi	Mon Jul 25 11:57	Delhi	Aug 01 15:33	READY	7:28

PREAMBLE

As is well known, ashes, said to be the mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, have been kept at Tokyo's Renko-ji temple since 1945. These have been preserved with due care and respect by a succession of head priests of the temple. It is most commendable that the Government of India has, over the years, albeit unofficially, assisted this work.

While shouldering an onerous responsibility, the priests in question have never complained about this nor have they ever created any pressure to be relieved of the same. However, the present head priest of the temple, like his predecessor, feels that it is only appropriate that the "ashes" return to India and this is also the unanimous view of remaining Japanese associates of Netaji.

If the "ashes" do indeed belong to Netaji, then, perhaps, every effort should be made to bring them back to India. And with the highest possible honour.

For this to happen, those who disbelieve the story of his death in a plane crash - namely a few members of the Bose family (most of whom think otherwise), the Forward Bloc and some diehard individuals - need to be convinced to the contrary.

And all legal hurdles to transfer of the "ashes" to Indian soil need to be removed.

23 January, 1997 will mark Netaji's birth centenary. It would be a feather in the central government's cap if the "ashes" arrive in India on 23 January, 1996, and are, if desired, taken around the country during the centenary year before being dealt with as the family wishes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The opposition to the plane crash story is not entirely unreasonable. As per this incident, Netaji died in unusual circumstances, there is no photographic record of his dead body. And the "cremation certificate" claimed to relate to the last rites is in the name of a Japanese national, described as a member of the armed forces and whose birth date is different from Netaji's.

Such discrepancy was attempted to be explained away by the Japanese government as reflective of a need to maintain secrecy about Netaji's death. Yet, it was Japan which released to the world the news of the air crash.

The reported accident - on 18 August, 1945 - took place only days after Japan's surrender in World War II. It is understandable that the Japanese were shell shocked by the turn of events and there was utter confusion and a complete lack of co-ordination among them. And it is quite possible that while Tokyo was making public news of Netaji's death, Japanese officials in Taihoku, in the absence of any instruction, thought it prudent to keep the matter confidential.

Indeed, a comprehensive statement, ideally by the Japanese Prime Minister, to clear the foggy atmosphere of the past 49 years may be most helpful. The Japanese government is likely to oblige. Japanese leaders, in recent times, have made a habit of apologising to Asian countries for treatment meted out to them during Japanese occupation of these nations during World War II. While Japan did not commit any crime against India, the post-war confusion resulting in a lack of a clear cut statement on the Netaji affair has, arguably, contributed to the deadlock over the "ashes".

For 11 years after the purported disaster, Japan made no effort to produce an official report on what happened. This led to unchecked speculation. On the one hand, the plane crash was dismissed - notably by the British - as just the thing Netaji would do to escape the clutches of the Anglo-Americans, and on the other, various theories emerged about his whereabouts.

Besides, pro-Netaji elements were skeptical of Pandit Nehru and his motives. They rejected the findings of the Inquiry Committee headed by Shah Nawaz Khan in 1956. (It would be fair to say that this probe was not conducted in a professional manner.) And also found unacceptable the conclusions of the Khosla Commission - in the 1970s - as they unnecessarily went beyond its brief by making political statements in favour of the Nehru-Gandhis and against Netaji.

However, in 1956, the Japanese government investigated and confirmed Netaji's death following the crash. And handed over this report to the Indian government. THE SAME DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC TILL DATE. Copies of the report exist in files at both the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Tokyo. They are marked "TOP SECRET". Yet, no harm could ever have come from publicising this as well as some other documents similarly classified. The skeptics will find it difficult to accuse the Japanese of an ulterior motive or a vested interest. Release of the report and related papers can, therefore, only have a very positive impact in persuading them to reconcile themselves to reality.

It is equally important to obtain from Russian authorities that Netaji never visited the Soviet Union after 18 August, 1945, if this is indeed the case. Opponents of the plane crash story believe that Netaji slipped away to the Soviet Union. It is true that he had planned to do so. But this was cut short by his seemingly premature death.

Moreover, a clarification is required from the British government on its stand until at least the late 1940s that Netaji did not die in the plane crash. (The chances are that Whitehall at some stage altered this view.)

Colonel Habibur Rahman, Netaji's ADC, who survived the crash, told his son, Naeemur, who now lives in Islamabad, that the aircraft failure was caused by SABOTAGE by Chinese technicians (hostile towards the Japanese, not Netaji - several senior Japanese military officers were on the flight) at Taihoku airport - this is new information, never mentioned by the former in his deposition to the Shah Nawaz Committee in 1956 - and that he placed a gold plated tooth belonging to Netaji in the urn containing the ashes when this was handed to him after the cremation in Taihoku - this, too, he had not made public before. A serious endeavour to get to the bottom of the "mystery" could include doing a simple X-ray of the urn. If the tooth is indeed there, the X-ray would be invaluable in terms of determining if the tooth matches with Netaji's dental records. The existence of the tooth would also help to increase Habibur Rahman's credibility, sometimes questioned.

17
A sincere presentation of the new evidence, is likely to create a favourable public opinion. The principal person in the Bose family still challenging the crash story, Amiya Nath Bose, a nephew of Netaji, needs to be brought around by the Prime Minister himself - there is a good chance that if reasonably approached, he will drop his opposition. It is desirable that agreement regarding bringing the "ashes" is secured from Netaji's wife and daughter, both residing in Augsburg, Germany. This is best done through Dr Sisir Bose, another nephew of Netaji. The Forward Bloc can be tackled by Jyoti Basu, who successfully made it do a volte face on Teen Bigha and can, most probably, do it again.

But no progress can be made unless there is an irreversible judgement from the Supreme Court authorising the return of the "ashes". Government could take the initiative in the matter. There is already a case before the Chief Justice petitioning how Netaji could have been given the Bharat Ratna "posthumously". GOVERNMENT COULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE ALL RELATED CASES PENDING IN ANY COURT IN THE COUNTRY, SEEK TIME TO COLLECT ALL "NEW EVIDENCE" OR MOVE THE MATTER SEPARATELY BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT TO DO AWAY WITH LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

In fighting the above case, it may be relevant to bear in mind that in September 1978, Morarjee Desai, as Prime Minister, made a statement in the Lok Sabha, effectively rejecting the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission.

END

T-3091/260/94
19.8.94

T-500/25/94
18/8

18

~~TOP SECRET~~

IMMEDIATE

COPY NO. 1/2

No. 89/2/1/94-TS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
CABINET SECRETARIAT (MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA)
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

New Delhi, the 22nd July, 1994.

.....

Subject:- Controversy about Netaji's death and allegations that he was an MI-6 Agent.

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Record note of discussion of the meeting held at 3.00 P.M. on 20th July, 1994, in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on the above subject, is given below:-

"It was noted that in the context of:

- (i) A series of articles published in Moscow in the magazine "Asia and Africa Today" alleging that Netaji was an MI-6 agent;
- (ii) Netaji's birth centenary due in 1997 and the stand taken by the Bose Academy in Japan that the GOI should take possession of the mortal remains of Netaji;

the Prime Minister Office had asked MHA to prepare a paper for the Cabinet.

2. During the course of discussions, it was observed that:

- (a) the publication of the Articles had attracted very little media attention so far;
- (b) the publication had taken place in a magazine whose circulation was dwindling rapidly;
- (c) on account of the efforts made by MEA, the Articles had not been translated or re-printed;
- (d) apart from containing the allegation that Netaji was secretly assisting the MI-6, the Articles by themselves were not derogatory;
- (e) as considerable time had elapsed since these Articles appeared (during the period August - October, 1993) and thus far had evoked no media interest, it was very unlikely that these would appear in the Indian media in the future;
- (f) the Bose Academy had not issued an ultimatum regarding the handing over of the ashes but merely made a representation on the grounds that its members were rapidly aging and may not be able to discharge their present duties.
- (g) the GOI was paying for the upkeep of the mortal remains in Renkoji temple and the management could be persuaded to continue with this arrangement if the upkeep charges were increased.

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3. The following conclusions were arrived at:

- (i) Since the Articles had not attracted any media attention so far, it was unlikely that such a contingency would arise in the future. Even in the unlikely event of these Articles appearing in the local media, its ripple effects were likely to be minimal since the basic thrust of the Articles did appear to project Netaji in a patriotic light as an opponent of fascism. However, some sensitivity did attach in this very suggestion of an association - presumably even if falls - such as Netaji with MI-6. Prudence demanded therefore that GOI response on this issue should be minimal and as low key as possible. In fact, the issue is best left alone and if possible, allowed to be forgotten.
- (ii) As regards the question of taking possession of the ashes was concerned, no particular advantage lay in taking a decision on this at this juncture since the birth centenary celebrations were due only in 1997. Therefore, a view could be taken in the matter in 1996-97 and till such time status quo should be maintained. The temple management may be persuaded to continue with the upkeep of the ashes and, if necessary, the maintenance charges being paid to the temple may be suitably increased to meet the increased cost.
- (iii) Since it was best that as little publicity as possible was given to the entire issue, it was felt that it may not be necessary to place this matter before the Cabinet. PM may be apprised accordingly and his directions obtained.


Sd/-
(P.P. Prabhu)
Additional Secretary.

To

Shri K. Padmanabhaiah, Home Secretary.

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✓/Copy endorsed to Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary.


(Sanjiv Misra)
Joint Secretary.
18.8.1994.

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Ministry of External Affairs
Joint Secretary(AP)'s Office

P.M.O. may please refer to their U.O.
No.870/11/P/10/93-Pol dated 9 August, 1994
regarding Netaji.

Foreign Secretary has directed that a
copy of TS note No.89/2/1/94-TS dated 22 July
1994 about Netaji's death be sent to you for
information.

(R.S. Kalha)
Joint Secretary(AP)

Ms Sujata Mehta, Director(PMO)

MEA u.o. No.2927-JS(A)/94 dt. 22.8.1994
No.25/114/NGO

(Copy to Ambassador of India, Tokyo.)

(R.S. Kalha)
Joint Secretary(AP)

N.G.O.